

Summary

Claims 1-15 were pending. Claim 1 was rewritten and Claims 16-23 added. No new matter was added by this amendment.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 5, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohwada (U.S. Patent 6,692,134). Claims 2-4 and 6-14 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten to incorporate the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has rewritten Claim 1 to incorporate the allowable elements of Claims 2 and 3. Applicant has added Claims 16-23, which incorporate the elements of the objected to claims.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned in the event that a telephone interview would expedite consideration of the application.

Respectfully submitted,



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